

# THE OUTREACH

**A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.**

**1100Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113**  
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**BETHEL**  
 BAPTIST CHURCH

**Vol. 52 No. 6 June 2020**

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Normally, I like to feature someone and their story of faith in my newsletter articles, but as we know, things aren't normal. Rather than focusing on one story, I'd like to share with you how I've seen us put our faith into action over these last two challenging months. Several of you made masks for people. Others kept Charlotte's Food Pantry up and running by distributing food to those in need. Some of you have shopped for groceries for elderly neighbors. I know of two or three of you that have been taking people to doctor visits or Chemo treatments. We helped a family in Chesterfield where both parents lost their jobs and they are expecting a child. This family was forced to abandon their home and move in with a friend. We provided them with gift cards to purchase groceries, baby clothes, and diapers. Speaking of gift cards, several of you have provided us with gift cards to grocery stores so that we could pass them along to families in need. Many



of you donated candy, snacks, and puzzle books to bless the good folks at St. Francis Medical Center. They were so appreciative they mentioned us on their Facebook page. Someone else from our church took snacks to the Midlothian Fire Department to thank them for all they do for the community. The Fire Chief was so appreciative he wrote us a very nice letter

which we've printed on page 6 in this newsletter. Many of you have been checking on one another. You've been calling, texting, emailing, sending cards, and in one case, you organized a drive by parade of eight to ten cars to wish someone a happy birthday. I'm also grateful for those who have helped to get our worship services online and for those of you who have participated in our services.



I'm equally grateful for your continued giving and support of the church during this time. Thank you. I'm also overjoyed that during this time we've actually had several people to join the church virtually. Pretty incredible!

I'd like for you to notice that I have not mentioned any names in this article. This is because there is only one name to mention and that of course is Christ. The name that is above all names. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I've seen the truth of this verse every day over the last two months as Christ as been working in you and through you. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, people are being blessed and Christ is being glorified as you respond in faith to His call. To this I say amen! Thank you for doing what you're doing!

While there is much good that's been done and there are many blessings to count, I also know that many of you are tired, frustrated and want this pandemic to end so that we can "get back to normal." None of us know when that will be or what "normal" will even look like. Please know I'm praying for you. I pray for Christ to give us strength, to encourage us, and to help us focus on the present. I want to encourage you to keep hold of Christ. Keep faith in Christ. Keep seeking and praying. There are so many unknowns that lay before us. It's difficult to make any kind of plans. In many ways we are forced to live day to day. Let us remember Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Christ is asking us to concentrate on the present, on this day. Let me leave you with a thought about this day. THIS DAY is good. It's good because God aroused us from our sleep and invited us into THIS DAY. It's good because God asks us to participate in His creative, redemptive, ministry of loving and healing THIS DAY. THIS DAY is good because God is good and God is with us. Let's give thanks to God for THIS DAY. I am thankful for THIS DAY because of you and what Christ has been doing through you. I am thankful that Christ is walking with us through this valley and one day soon we will be together again at Bethel. May God bless you. I love and miss each of you. In Christ,

*Todd*

Continued next column

# Youth News Connect

by Lauren Moore



Since we are still in a season that remains different from our typical lives I thought I would do something different for my portion of the newsletter this month. Here are a few thoughts I recently shared with our students.

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a new way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* Isaiah 43:19. This verse has walked me through many, many difficult seasons. It's been a source of comfort and a reminder of God's goodness in too many to count heartbreaking situations. While this verse is a great life verse I want to look at why?

Why is this verse so encouraging? God is taking something barren and dead and bringing life to it! This verse comes during a time when the Israelites were living in exile in Babylon. In many ways, we are living life in exile. In some ways related to the virus due to upheaval of everyday life, restrictions and social distancing, but I'm mostly talking about our own personal exile. We live in sin, create broken relationships and our lives are marked with pain and tragedy created by ourselves and others. We live in a pattern of corruption. We have corrupt idols and misguided priorities. We live in an exile of our own making. The exile of the Israelites is over and they are coming out of exile. They have experienced God's mercy and grace again. But they complain that God has ignored them and their troubles while they were in exile. Being in exile caused them to lose sight of their faith, God's grace and abundant mercy and His past faithfulness. At times, we are the exact same. We are the same because of the world we live in (a fallen, sinful world) and the experiences of our lives cause our faith to also waver. The Israelites thought, "Maybe the Babylonian gods are stronger and better than our God. Maybe the Babylonian gods won't ignore us or neglect us." To which God says, "No. Exile was not neglect on my behalf, but it served as a result of your choices." This is exactly the same in our own lives. What we may perceive as neglect on God's part is actually the result of our own poor choices, our own sin. Our broken lives are results of our choices, not God's neglect. We have free will and what we choose has consequences. Our choices yield positive and negative consequences. Although no one wants to spend time in the middle of a searing desert, like the Israelites, such an experience gives us the opportunity to prove and refine our faith. To this, our time in the desert, God says, "I am going to do something new..."

The verse before verse 19 tells us, "forget the former things, do not dwell on the past." Do not focus on your past. Do not remain stuck in failure, disappointment and sin. Staying stuck in the past can prevent us from experiencing the new things God has for us. If the Israelites stayed stuck in their

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*A Note From Your Associate  
Pastor and Music Minister by  
Gayle Taylor*



## **"Blessings Uncovered"**

During this pandemic, chances are you have discovered many annoyances associated with stay-at-home orders (wearing masks in public, socially distancing, worshipping via a computer screen), but have you recognized the blessings? Perhaps you have grown closer to God and find yourself praying more, reading more Scripture, and spending more time with a devotional book. As you give over more time in spiritual activities, daily blessings probably have been revealed: family relationships are cherished a bit more, house projects have been completed, telephone calls from friends are eagerly anticipated, etc. If you have trouble discerning the blessings, may I suggest that you start looking for them, indeed, start expecting them!

The Tuesday morning prayer group that I lead, Chesterfield Prayer Pocket, has initiated an activity for the next 30 days: to list each day those blessings for which we are grateful, no matter how small they may seem. I would like to extend the invitation to you: at the end of each day, write down at least one blessing that you have received. Putting into writing something for which you are grateful makes it easier to stay in the habit of *noticing* and *expecting* blessings from God. I have recorded the following in the past week: good health, kindness from church friends, telephone/Zoom calls from my children, and that my riding lawnmower is working.

When we do come through the other side of this pandemic (and we will) may we all recognize that the One who watches over us gives us daily portions of blessings... waiting to be uncovered.

Psalm 73: 25-28

*Whom have I in heaven but you?*

*And there is nothing on earth*

*That I desire other*

*Than you.*

*My flesh and my heart may fail,*

*But God is the strength of my heart and my portion*

*Forever.*

## Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

### Upcoming pantry schedule:

June 10, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

June 26, 9 to 11 a.m.

July 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

July 24, 9 to 11 a.m.



If you would like to help on any of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.

# Bethel Care Team



I hardly know how to begin this month's article. What can I report on, what I can tell you about our homebound folks, what will I write about when there is nothing much going on in our world in Midlothian and Powhatan. But, I say we must be positive and think of the future when all of this is over or at least settled down and we can once again worship together, visit safely and do unto others like we want too.

We have had some of our folks with medical problems during this month, surgeries, and being in the hospital for other reasons that have kept us in prayer for them. Our homebound folks have done especially well, I suppose they are already used to being "home", it's the lack of visitors and conversations with friends that have made this time hard for them. When your minister cannot come and be with you, when you are upset and need to talk, he calls and has prayers with you at just the right time, Todd is an amazing minister and has done everything possible to help all in need of him.

It has been a time of reconnecting with family, there has been time to chat and listen and learn from one another. It has seen some good projects done that have been waiting for a long time. There has just been extra "time" for family, this has been especially good for the little ones to have their parents home with them, for schoolwork time and for playtime. Maybe some day we will look back and realize this was a "time out" that God provided for us to regroup and renew our lives. I truly believe we were all living in a whirlwind and didn't have any idea how to stop. Now, we have learned to live much simpler lives and appreciate the glory around us, the beauty of the earth and now that we know better maybe we will change some things. Maybe by our next writing we will be gathering once again for our worship, until then, may God bless us all and give us the strength to do his will in anyway we can for anyone we can.

Shirley Lewis/Team Lead

## 3 Ways to Give at Bethel

- 1. Send a check to our secure mailbox.** The address is: Bethel Baptist Church, 1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113
- 2. Online Giving:** On our Website there is a link to give. Once you click on the link you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. Here's the link for online giving: <https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/>
- 3. Text Giving:** Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804) 361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform we're using is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction. As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

## Missions News by Frances Morris

**Women's Missionary Union Meeting**—WMU will not meet this month, our next meeting will be July 6, at 10 a.m. at Bethel if the restrictions for Covid-19 have been lifted.

**Bethel Preschooler Cards:** If you have signed up to send a card to a preschooler, please be sure to remember his/her birthday and any upcoming holidays.

**Kroger:** Please **register your Kroger card** so Bethel can continue to receive reward points toward Missions. Go to [www.Kroger.com](http://www.Kroger.com) and sign in. Then click on "Community" on tab bar and click on "community Rewards." The church member number is **QW701**. You will still get your points toward gas, Bethel will just get credit for any amounts you spend at Kroger.

## Wednesday Night Programs in June



June 7 —Sacred Circle (Zoom)—6:30 p.m.  
June 14—Sacred Circle (Zoom)—6:30 p.m.  
June 21—Sacred Circle (Zoom)—6:30 p.m.  
June 28—Sacred Circle (Zoom)—6:30 p.m.

## Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for the delicious fruit basket. We have enjoyed the variety of everything in it! Also a big thank you for the many prayers, cards, text messages, phone calls and the love that everyone has shown to us. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving church.

Love, Russell & Susan Wright

Dear Bethel Family,

It fills my heart with great joy to send this note of thanks to Bethel Baptist Church for your prayers, cards, visits by phone and texts, and the huge fruit and snack basket, Wow! You have made my days of hospitalization and rehab shorter. By His continued faithfulness I will see you soon.

Love to all, Bud

To My Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for the sympathy cards, phone calls, visits and for the beautiful flowers. I treasure my friendships and love I have from Bethel. This is hard with Wally gone. We had a special relationship. So many nice things have been said about him and we will all be together again when God calls us. Thank you Todd and Gayle for all of your support.

Love, Myrna Perkins

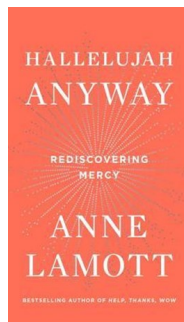


discouragement and seduction of Babylon, they would have never looked for the new thing of being released from exile. If we stay stuck in the discouragement of past situations, missing 'normal' life, reliving poor choices we've made, focusing on the negative, seeing what we don't have instead of realizing all that we already have then we will miss the new thing God is doing. Not only does He say He's doing something new, but He even tells us that He will make a way. He will make a way for us to have or receive the new thing He is doing. Between Babylon (where the Israelites were exiled) and Israel (where they were going) were hundreds of miles of wilderness. Wilderness. This wasn't a nature walk or a modern day car trip from VA to PA with stops at scenic views along the way. This was walking hundreds of miles back to Israel in the natural elements. Weather, animals, creatures, dangers, sun, rain, etc. and God tells the Israelites that He is going to make a way for them to navigate this terrain. Not only to navigate the terrain, but a new way to live life! He's going to make a way for them to get through and He's going to make a way for us in the new. He's going to give us what we need but we have to turn to Him from our personal exile, our personal Babylon, and lean into what He has for each of us. I have no idea what the new looks like for you, but I do know that God wants to do something new in your life. I do know that God wants to take you from a place of captivity (living in sin) and lead you into a place of freedom (abundant life in Him). I do know He wants to rid you of shame, comparison, judgment, and giving into the fleshly desires of life and lead you into forgiveness and His unconditional love. I do know He wants to rid you of fear, worry, anxiety, depression and the idea that you are not good enough and lead your heart into a place that is full of peace. I do know He wants to be the Lord of your life and help you navigate life in this new terrain that lays before us. There is a way out of Babylon and God will lead you, guide you and make a way for you, but you have to walk out of exile one step at a time. What does that first step look like for you? What do you need to leave behind in exile?

## Book Club News

The Book Club is now reading *Hallelujah Anyway* by Anne Lamott. Goodreads says this about the book: "*Full of Lamott's trademark honesty, humor, and forthrightness, Hallelujah Anyway is profound and caring, funny and wise--a hopeful book of hands-on spirituality.*"

We will discuss this book in August. If you would like to participate in the book club and need a copy of the book, please contact Gayle Taylor at [revgayletay-](mailto:revgayletay-)



Just for Fun – by Gayle Taylor

Name these Famous Biblical Fathers (answers below)

1. Who is known as the 'father of many nations'?
2. Who is the father of the first set of twin sons mentioned in the Old Testament? Can you name the sons?
3. Who is the oldest known father in the Old Testament?
4. Who danced in the street and embarrassed his wife?
5. Which Old Testament father's name means "he laughs"?
6. Which New Testament father lost his voice? Who is his son?
7. Which Old Testament man is known as the wisest father?
8. Which New Testament father was a carpenter by trade?
9. Who is the grandfather of King David?
10. Who is the father of the second set of twin sons mentioned in the Old Testament? Can you name the sons?

- ANSWERS
1. Abraham (See Gen. 17)
  2. Isaac (father) Jacob & Esau (sons) (See Gen. 25)
  3. Methuselah (See Gen. 5)
  4. David (See 2 Samuel 6)
  5. Isaac (See Gen. 21)
  6. Zechariah (father) John (son) (See Luke 1)
  7. Solomon (See 1 Kings 3)
  8. Joseph (See Matt. 13:55)
  9. Obed (See Ruth 4:21-23)
  10. Judah (father) Perez & Zerah (sons) (See Gen. 38: 24-29)

## June Birthdays



2	Jennifer McLeod	18	Tammy Gillespie
3	Joyce Cole	18	Pat Herndon
3	Debby Stagg	18	Gordon Henry
6	Betty Tooley	18	Jane Watkins
6	Stuart Turner	19	Forrest Yeager
8	Bradley Roach	20	B.B. Whitley
8	Michael Bell	21	Tyler Barden
8	Dennis Glazener	23	Anne Cullen
8	Deborah Mayberry	23	Dave Jeter
10	Todd Tooley	25	Myrna Perkins
10	Russell Wright	25	Billy Redmond
11	Paige Rider	26	Bob Hale
12	Nate Mead	30	Julia Boykin
13	Eddie Stagg		
14	Nancy Blankenship		
14	Mary Dance Berry		
16	Bob Hansen		
17	Tyler Dickerson		
18	Ardelle Florence		

## Ladies Lunch Canceled

The Ladies Fellowship Lunches have been canceled until further notice due to Covid-19.



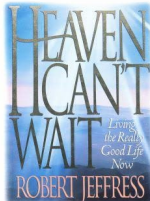
## Men's Lunch Canceled

The Men's Fellowship lunches have been canceled until further notice due to Covid-19.



## Tuesday Morning Small Group

The Tuesday Small Group led by Pat Bartlam has been postponed. We will announce the new dates as soon as possible. This study is entitled "Heaven Can't Wait—Living the Good Life Now" by Dr. Robert Jeffress and is based on the book of Colossians. If you want to experience the "good life" now while waiting for Heaven, this study is for you. We look forward to the time we will be able to start this group.



## Opportunities for:

### Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- Adults on Mission (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See Gayle Rogers)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Barbara Bell)
- Care Team Ministry (See Shirley Lewis)

### Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Margaret Gillis)
- Youth Group Meetings every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. (See Lauren Moore)
- Bible/Discipleship Study Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (See Gordon and Shirley Rutland)
- Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
- Zumba Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. (See Megan Luck)
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW children's ministry, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Children in Action meet every 5th Sunday, during the Sunday School hour. (See Frances Morris)

## Blessing Box

Collections for the Blessing Box have been stopped for now due to Covid-19. If you would like to give a monetary gift you can go to <https://blessingwarriorsrva.com/> and click on the "give now" button.

Blessings, Cindy Luck, RN FCN

## Sharing and Caring at Chick-fil-A



Sharing and Caring has been postponed until further notice. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.



**Chesterfield County, Virginia**  
**Fire & EMS**

6731 Mimms Loop – P.O. Box 40 – Chesterfield, VA 23832  
 Phone: (804)748-1360 - Fax: (804)751-9022 - Internet: [chesterfield.gov](http://chesterfield.gov)



Edward L. Senter, Jr.  
 Chief of Department

April 30, 2020

Dear Pastor Bradbury:

On behalf of the men and women of Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services, thank you for the cookies, crackers, and granola bars that were delivered on April 21, 2020 by Mr. Lewis to the crew at Fire Station #5 (C Shift), 13420 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23113. Your act of kindness was greatly appreciated by the crew and by me.

"Great service is provided by great people" who are guided by a set of principles and values such as yourself. Because of your commitment to the community, and to public safety, together we will succeed in the fight against this coronavirus pandemic.

Once again, thank you for your kind and generous support of public safety and the community that we both serve.

Sincerely,  
 Edward L. Senter Jr., Chief  
 CHESTERFIELD COUNTY FIRE AND EMS

## Many Thanks From the Nurses at St. Francis Medical Center

St. Francis Medical Center received a truckload of beautiful baskets full of snacks and treats from Bethel Baptist Church that was delivered by a church member who is one of our own nurses! Lisa Hardy is a member of our Mother/Infant Unit team and we are so grateful that she thought of us!



## A Scripture for Meditation and Guidance

<sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.  
<sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:10-13



# June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional— postponed till further notice WMTU—canceled	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—Zoom—6:30 pm	<i>4</i> Ladies Fellowship Lunch canceled Men's Fellowship Lunch canceled	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Worship—10:30 am—Streaming Live	<i>8</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional— postponed till further notice	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Charlotte's Pantry—5:00 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—Zoom—6:30 pm	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Worship—10:30 am—Streaming Live	<i>15</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional— postponed till further notice	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—Zoom—6:30 pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Father's Day Worship—10:30 am—Streaming Live	<i>22</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional— postponed till further notice	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—6:30 pm	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Worship—10:30 am—Streaming Live	<i>29</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional— postponed till further notice	<i>30</i>				

**Bethel Baptist Church**

1100 Huguenot Springs Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113

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MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Change Service Requested

**WORSHIP TIMES**

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship



For more information, please call Carter Cosgrove at  
804-794-8590 or go to our website at  
[www.bethelbaptistpreschool.com](http://www.bethelbaptistpreschool.com).

**HAPPY  
FATHERS  
DAY**